

2021 - 2022 Two Catholic Identity Standards Focus – Office for Catholic Schools

Factor 1 The Catholic Identity of the School The school is Catholic, approved by the Local Ordinary (Canon 803), providing authentic Catholic teaching, opportunities for community worship and participation in the Sacraments, and promoting evangelization and service to the community.

Catholic Purpose: Mission - Philosophy - Charism/Spirituality

“Catholic schools are called to a renewal of purpose, and some reorganization. The goals appropriate to today’s Catholic educational effort ... (include) the need to prepare young men and women to be witnesses to faith during an era of instability and at the same time to act as agents of creative institutional change for which adequate models hardly exist. While the Christian purpose of the Catholic school must always be clearly evident, no one form is prescribed for it.” (*To Teach as Jesus Did*, NCCB, 1972, #123)

“Our young people are the Church of today and tomorrow. It is imperative that we provide them with schools ready to address their spiritual, moral, and academic needs.” (*Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*, USCCB, 2005, p. 8)

Charism Standard: If the school is sponsored by a religious congregation or named for a patron of the Church, the charism of the religious congregation and/or the spirituality of the patron are infused into the school. Source: [Archdiocese of Seattle 10 Catholic Identity Standards, 2010](#).

Standard: The school has a mission statement and a philosophy statement which indicate the integration of the Roman Catholic Faith into all aspects of school life. Source: ISL 2012 Ap C-6 Catholic Identity, page 1.

- _ The mission statement clearly indicates the relationship of the school to its parent body (e.g., the parish or religious congregation).
- _ The mission statement and philosophy are prominently displayed in the front office, every classroom, and the parish offices.
- _ The mission statement and philosophy are included in relevant school documents such as handbooks, websites, etc.
- _ The mission statement and philosophy are often quoted in relevant school publications such as the parent/student/staff handbooks, school newsletters, registration materials, etc.
- _ The principal/admissions officer talks about the school’s mission and philosophy when interviewing prospective students and their families.
- _ The principal (and pastor) discuss the mission and philosophy of the school with prospective teachers, aides, employees, volunteers (especially coaches) etc. before hiring them/bringing them on board.
- _ Policy established by the school board is based upon, and quoted from the mission and/or philosophy.
- _ Strategic Plan/School Improvement Plan/Action Plan is based upon, and often quotes from the mission and/or philosophy.
- _ Parents and students, teachers and staff can paraphrase the mission statement if not quote it exactly.

Questions for reflection-discussion concerning Mission - Philosophy; Charism/Spirituality; cite evidence.

Source: E3 2016 Accreditation Protocol page 36.

- How explicitly Catholic is the mission statement of the school? Is this statement clear, and does it reflect the reality of the school? How widely-known and widely-practiced is this statement in the school community?

- Is the philosophy statement clearly-stated? Does the beliefs and principles guide the mission? How widely-known and widely-practiced are these beliefs and principles in the school community?
- Concerning the SLEs or the Integral Student Outcomes for students: How well aligned are these with the mission and philosophy? How widely known? How widely practiced? How effective are the indicators by which to gauge students' accomplishment of them?

Parents as Partners – [Moral Decision Making](#)

Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators. This role in education is so important that only with difficulty can it be supplied where it is lacking. Parents are the ones who must create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and man, in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered. Hence, the family is the first school of the social virtues that every society needs. It is particularly in the Christian family, enriched by the grace and office of the sacrament of matrimony, that children should be taught from their early years to have a knowledge of God according to the faith received in Baptism, to worship him and to love their neighbor." (*Gravissimum Educationis*, Pope Paul VI, 1965 #3)

"Parents, in their own right, are primary educators. They are first in time and first in significance regarding the formation of their children. This partnership role with the Catholic school calls them to know and to support their child's Education progress through the school's program. In addition, this partnership role is to participate in the organizations that the school has established for them for their input and support of the school program." (E3 2016 Accreditation, page 38)

Standard: *The school maintains an active partnership with parents whose fundamental concern is the spiritual and academic education of their children.* Checklist source: ISL 2012 Ap C-6 Catholic Identity, page 5.

- ___ Parent are identified as the primary educators in appropriate school documents (e.g., mission statement, handbooks).
- ___ The school provides formal opportunities for parents to learn about their role as primary educators.
- ___ A formal, institutionalized part of annual parent-teacher conferences is a discussion of the child's spiritual growth and development.
- ___ Administration encourages teachers to meet with parents outside of the annual parent-teacher conferences to discuss the faith formation activities of the school.
- ___ Administration provides opportunities for parents to meet and talk about the faith formation of their children.
- ___ Every newsletter contains one or more articles related to the faith formation of children.
- ___ Parents are involved in the faith formation of their children, and their successes (e.g., helping children memorize prayers) is reported back to the parents.

Questions for reflection and discussion concerning Parents as Partners - [Moral Decision-Making](#); cite evidence Source: E3 2016 Accreditation Protocol page 38.

- How well does the school welcome and respect parents as educational partners?
- How much does the parents' relationship with the school on behalf of their children extend to matters of Catholic faith?
- How inclined is the school to promote the formation of parents in the Faith?